

March 4, 2022

Opposition: SB184 and HB5262

I am writing in opposition to both SB184 and HB5262. I am extremely concerned about the integrity of our elections. I don't see any reason to change the definition of "illness" within the text or to add "the sickness of COVID-19." COVID-19 is covered under illness, so the addition is redundant.

How is the mere existence of illness relevant to one's ability to vote? What this change will do is open the door to mailing out more ballots that may or may not have been requested. If there is a lack of access to voting in specific populations, this bill does absolutely nothing to resolve that, unless you count the potential mass-mailing.

If the purpose of this change is to address concerns about having to be in close physical proximity to others, there are certainly other measures that can be implemented. Drive-by ballot window? Separate entrance and line, perhaps applied for in advance? Sweeping and vague language changes to the statute make no promise of what these changes will allow for, nor are there proper safeguards put into place.

There are already issues with the accuracy of voter lists, voter identification, people voting who are not legal citizens, duplicate votes, and more. An increase in absentee voting only further weakens the integrity of our election process - something that should be a concern of *every* voter and candidate, regardless of affiliation with a political party.

Please do not pass these changes. Thank you.

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